Page 1, line 28, add the following heading prior to the last paragraph --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION---.

Page 22, line 11, add the following heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS---.

Page 23, line 15, add the following heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION---.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 40 and 42 without prejudice.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the sacrificial filler does not interact chemically with the silicone rubber precursor or with the resultant silicone rubber and is stable at temperatures used to cure the resultant mixture.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the sacrificial filler is granular and, preferably, crystalline.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the sacrificial filler is amorphous.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the sacrificial filler is ground and, preferably, classified, prior to contacting the silicone rubber precursor.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the sacrificial filler is milled to a pore size of 0.01-10 μm, preferably 0.05-1 μm, and most preferably 0.1-0.4 μm.

A6 10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the sacrificial filler is an inorganic salt and is milled in an organic solvent.

11. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial filler is an inorganic salt selected from the group consisting of metal halides, metal carbonates and metal bicarbonates.

A7 15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial metal is removed by dissolution, preferably in an aqueous solvent.

18. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein free –OH groups of the silicone rubber are chemically modified, so as to enhance cell adherence.

A8 19. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface of the silicone rubber is charged by bombardment with electrons.

20. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the silicone rubber precursor comprises at least one additive that is not removed with the sacrificial filler and serves to impart desired physical properties to the rubber.

A9 25. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a surface of the silicone rubber precursor is contacted with the sacrificial filler so as to form a structured silicone rubber having a textured surface.

A10 32. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 25 or 26, wherein the textured surface is micro-cupulated, the micro-cupules having a depth of less than 1 mm, preferably a depth of 0.5-0.1 mm.

A11

34. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sacrificial filler is dispersed throughout the silicone rubber precursor, and the structured silicone rubber is substantially porous.

37. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 34 or 35, wherein the resultant mixture is shaped prior to curing, preferably by moulding or extrusion.

A12

38. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 34 or 35, wherein the pores are 1 μm - 0.5 mm, preferably 10 μm - 0.2 mm, and most preferably 50 to 150 μm in diameter.

39. (Amended) A method as claimed in claims 34 or 35, wherein the porous silicone rubber is cut to a desired size or shape.

A13

41. (Amended) A textured or porous silicone rubber ~~obtained or obtainable by a method~~ according to claim 1.

A14

43. (Amended) A biomedical device or apparatus comprising a textured or porous silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

A15

48. (Amended) A culture chamber as claimed in claim 44, wherein the textured interior growth surface is a textured silicone rubber obtained or obtainable by a method according to claim 25.

49. (Amended) A culture chamber as claimed in claim 44, wherein at least one gas-permeable wall or portion of a wall is a silicone rubber membrane.

50. (Amended) A culture chamber as claimed in claim 44, including at least one port extending between the interior and the exterior of the chamber.

A16

53. (Amended) A culture chamber as claimed in claim 44, in the form of a flexible bag or envelope, preferably made of silicone rubber.

54. (Amended) A culture chamber as claimed in claim 44, including a valve means for release of gasses that build up within the chamber during use.

A17

58. (Amended) A culture chamber as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a second chamber separated from the first chamber by means of a semi-permeable membrane.

A18

60. (Amended) An apparatus comprising a plurality of culture chambers as claimed in claim 44, for use in a method of culturing microbiological material.

A19

64. (Amended) A method of culturing microbiological material in a culture chamber as claimed in claim 44, or an apparatus as claimed in claim 60.

A20

66. (Amended) A method of carrying out a bio-processing operation in a culture chamber or an apparatus as claimed in claim 44, which comprises attaching cells for performing the bio-processing function to the textured surface of the culture chamber(s), introducing liquor to be processed into the culture chamber(s) *via* an inlet, and collecting the processed liquor at an outlet from the culture chamber(s).

A21

73. (Amended) A well as claimed in claim 71, wherein the membrane has a textured surface facing the interior of the well.

74. (Amended) A well as claimed in claim 70, wherein the textured surface has a crater-like depression or micro-cupules.

75. (Amended) A well as claimed in claim 70, wherein the textured surface is made by a method as claimed in claim 25.

A21

76. (Amended) A microtitre plate having at least one well as claimed in claim 70.

77. (Amended) A method of culturing microbiological material on a well as claimed in claim 70, or into a microtitre plate as claimed in claim 76.

A22

81. (Amended) An implant device as claimed in claim 80, wherein the textured silicone rubber coating is made by a method as claimed in claim 25.

82. (Amended) An implant device as claimed in claim 78, wherein the device is a heart valve, a sternum implant, or a reconstructed calf ligament.

A23

87. (Amended) A substrate as claimed in claim 84, wherein the textured surface has crater-like depressions or micro-cupules.

88. (Amended) A substrate as claimed in claim 84, wherein the textured surface is a textured silicone rubber made by a method as claimed in claim 25.

89. (Amended) A skin graft grown on a substrate as claimed in claim 84.

A24

94. (Amended) A tissue support structure as claimed in claim 93, wherein the porous silicone rubber is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

95. (Amended) An apparatus for culturing tissue or cellular agglomerates, comprising a tissue support structure as claimed in claim 90, wherein the apparatus further comprises a gas-permeable membrane, to enhance oxygen supply to the system of pores and channels within the porous material, and therefore to the tissue.

sub B5 A25

100. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein a plurality of tissue support structures are arranged in close proximity to one another, so as to allow fusion between tissue or cell masses growing on each structure, to create larger tissue or cellular agglomerates.

A26

103. (Amended) An artificial implant as claimed in claim 101, wherein the porous material is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

A27

106. (Amended) A cartilage implant as claimed in claim 104, for replacing eroded joints, wherein the porous silicone structure has been moulded to conform to the shape of the bone, which it is to protect.

107. (Amended) A cartilage implant as claimed in claim 104, wherein the porous material has been moulded into the shape of a nasal bridge.

108. (Amended) A cartilage implant as claimed in claim 104, wherein the porous material has been moulded into the shape of an ear.

A28

111. (Amended) A vascular graft as claimed in claim 109, further providing an interior surface for cell adhesion.

A29

113. (Amended) A vascular graft as claimed in claim 111, providing an exterior surface for cell adhesion.

A30

115. (Amended) A vascular graft as claimed in claim 109, wherein one or both surfaces of the graft are additionally roughened to enhance cell attachment, preferably by providing the graft with a textured silicone rubber surface.

A31

118. (Amended) A cell implant means as claimed in claim 117, wherein the porous silicone rubber is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

A32 120. (Amended) A cell implant as claimed in claim 116, for use as an endocrine implant.

A33 126. (Amended) A drug implant as claimed in claim 123, wherein the porous material comprises a porous silicone rubber.

127. (Amended) A drug delivery system as claimed in claim 126, wherein porous silicone rubber is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

A34 129. (Amended) A filtration media as claimed in claim 128, wherein the porous silicone rubber is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

A35 131. (Amended) A filtration method as claimed in claim 128, for use in magnetic separation.

A36 133. (Amended) A filtration media as claimed in claim 128, for use in expanded bed absorption.

A37 135. (Amended) A filtration media as claimed in claim 128, for use in static inline filtration.

A38 137. (Amended) A filtration media as claimed in claim 128, wherein the porous silicone rubber is in the form of annular discs.

A39 140. (Amended) A cell cryopreservation system as claimed in claim 139, wherein the porous silicone rubber is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

A40 145. (Amended) An electrode as claimed in claim 144, wherein the porous silicone rubber is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

146. (Amended) An electrode as claimed in claim 143, wherein the conductive particles are metal or carbon powders.

A41 148. (Amended) An electrode system comprising a plurality of electrodes as claimed in claim 143 immersed in a liquid electrolyte and connected to an electric circuit.

A42 151. (Amended) A wound dressing as claimed in claim 150, wherein the porous gel layer comprises porous silicone rubber gel, preferably made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

A43 153. (Amended) A wound dressing as claimed in claim 150, wherein the carrier gel is applied to a supportive structure, preferably a Dacron® mesh.

A44 154. (Amended) A wound dressing as claimed in claim 150, wherein the porous gel layer is infused with a drug for delivery to the wound.

A45 159. (Amended) A clinical swab as claimed in claim 158, wherein the porous silicone rubber is made by a method as claimed in claim 34.

160. (Amended) A clinical swab as claimed in claim 157, wherein the porous material contains a radio-opaque additive, preferably barium sulfate.

161. (Amended) A clinical swab as claimed in claim 157, wherein the porous material is infused with a drug.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to incorporate appropriate section headings in compliance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office guidelines. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

The claims have also been amended to conform to U.S. practice.